

# FOOD INSECURITY IN NASSAU COUNTY

Housing costs, stagnant wages, and taxes dominate the affordability conversations in Nassau County. For many people, however, food insecurity is one of the harshest realities.

## What is Food Insecurity?

Food insecurity occurs when financial or other resources limits a person's access to sufficient quantity—and quality—of food.

## Who Experiences It?

One out of every eight New Yorkers experience food insecurity.<sup>i</sup> That includes working families, single mothers, seniors, children, and college students of every race.

## SNAP BENEFITS (FOOD STAMPS)

### In Nassau County:



**19,370** Households



**4.3%** of the population

### Receive SNAP Benefits<sup>iii</sup>

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, is the nation's largest domestic anti-hunger program. In 2017, SNAP provided more than 40 million Americans with assistance for food.<sup>ii</sup> **Every \$5 in food stamps generates \$9 in economic activity.**<sup>iv</sup>

### They are working families.



**69%**

Have At Least  
One Worker



**89%**

Are Not Under the  
Poverty Level

### They are our most vulnerable.



**60%**

Have at Least One  
Senior Citizen



**35%**

Have Children  
Under 18 Years Old

Food Stamps. 2017 American Community Survey, U.S. Census.

## FOOD DESERTS



USDA defines a food desert as an area that lacks healthful whole foods, usually found in impoverished areas. Using the Food Access Research Atlas, our office identified 13 food desert census tracts in Nassau.<sup>v</sup> They are located in Glen Cove, Freeport, Hempstead, Long Beach, Roosevelt, and Uniondale.



#### Works Cited:

- i. Household Food Security in the United States in 2016. (2017, September). USDA.
- ii. Policy Basics: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (2018). Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
- iii. Food Stamps. 2017 American Community Survey, U.S. Census.
- iv. The Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier Model and Stimulus Effects of SNAP. (2010). USDA.
- v. Food Access Research Atlas. (n.d.). USDA.

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FOOD INSECURITY  
FACT SHEET

